

6. (Twice Amended.) A retractable brush seal for an apparatus that extracts work from the expansion of a gaseous working fluid, said apparatus comprising a rotating shaft disposed in a casing, said brush seal in the geometry of a ring formed from a plurality of adjacent abutting packing segments and centered on an axis defined by said shaft to provide a brush seal therearound, each said segment comprising: an inner face for sealing against said shaft and an outer face supporting a T-shaped extension; at least one brush seal disposed on the inner face of said segment; opposing ends of said segment cut parallel with radii of said axis; said brush seal having opposing side ends cut non-parallel with radii of said axis, one of said side ends cut angled to form a tongue extending past the segment end and the other of said ends cut at the same angle relative to said segment to provide a groove for accepting a tongue formed by a brush seal on another packing segment.

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments, and reexamination and reconsideration of the subject application, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.104 and § 1.112, and in light of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

Finality of Rejection

Designation of the rejection this Office Action as final is improper because there is a new rejection, under 35 USC 103, of claims 1-9 wherein the prior Office Action did not include any rejection based on obviousness.

Amendments

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to recite the entire segment having the inner face (205) and the outer face (206) on which the T-shaped extension (209a/b, 211; see top of page 8 of the specification) is supported. Accordingly,